

Message Text

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DPA& E: HGAFFNEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USDELMC IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 119487

E. O. 11652

TAGS: MARR, MCAP, NATO, GW

SUBJ: WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE ON PENTAGON NATO STUDIES

REFS: A. STATE 111387; B. BONN 8551; HAGUE 2694; BONN 8622

HELSINKI FOR MPT DEL

VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

1. AS ANTICIPATED IN REFERENCE A, MICHAEL GETLER ARTICLE
IN JUNE 7 WASHINGTON POST GENERATED NUMEROUS INQUIRIES AS
WELL AS CONCERN BY ALLIES ALONG THE LINES OUTLINED IN
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REFERENCE B. BEYOND STATEMENT CONTAINED IN PARA 6 OF REF A, WE DO NOT WISH TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE ARTICLE. THIS PARA IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QTE AT 7 JUNE NEWS BRIEFING, DOD CONFIRMED THERE IS A STUDY, THAT THE STUDY IS STILL ON- GOING AND INCOMPLETE. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE PREMATURE TO DRAW ANY CONCLUSIONS AT THIS TIME. DEFENSE IS CONSTANTLY CONDUCTING STUDIES AND THESE KINDS OF STUDIES HAVE GONE ON BEFORE. NO FURTHER COMMENT WAS MADE. UNQTE.

2. THE FOLLOWING UNCLASSIFIED DOD BACKGROUND STATEMENT ON THE STUDIES IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

3. BEGIN STATEMENT. QTE THESE STUDIES ARE THE LATEST ATTEMPTS IN OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OUR ANALYTICAL CAPABILITIES TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF MILITARY FORCES IN ACCOMPLISHING THEIR ASSIGNED MISSIONS. PARTS OF THESE PARTICULAR STUDIES HAVE BEEN ONGOING FOR 20 MONTHS. THEIR PRINCIPAL EMPHASIS HAS BEEN: (A) ATTEMPTS TO RECONCILE DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE KEY ASSUMPTIONS AND INPUT INFORMATION WHICH, AS IN ALL SUCH STUDIES, HAVE A LARGE IMPACT ON THE RESULTS; (B) ATTEMPTS TO DETERMINE THE RELATIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF VARIOUS CHANGES IN INITIAL ASSUMPTIONS; (C) ATTEMPTS TO DETERMINE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DIFFERENCES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF VARIOUS METHODOLOGIES AND WARGAME QTE MODELS UNQTE; AND (D) INCLUDING IN THE ANALYSIS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR ALLIED FORCES IN THE SAME LEVEL OF DETAIL AS US FORCES.

4. WE BELIEVE THESE ON- GOING STUDIES BEGIN UNDERLINE WHEN

COMPLETED END UNDERLINE WILL BE AMONG THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE CONCERNING OUR MILITARY CAPABILITIES IN THE NATO ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, SINCE THE STUDIES ARE NOT RPT NOT COMPLETE, THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN USED TO EXPLORE MANY REALISTIC WAR QTE SCENARIOS. UNQTE IN ADDITION, AS IN ALL SUCH ANALYTICAL STUDIES, MANY POTENTIAL REAL- WORLD LIMITATIONS AND DIFFICULTIES HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY CONSIDERED, AND IN MANY CASES THE INTERACTION OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF FORCES HAS NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. FOR
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INSTANCE, OUR PRESENT LAND FORCES STUDIES DO NOT YET INCLUDE THE CONTRIBUTION OF TACTICAL AIR FORCES, THE CONSTRAINTS OF AVAILABLE LOGISTICS, OR UNANTICIPATED PROBLEMS IN COMMAND AND CONTROL.

5. BECAUSE OF THE INCOMPLETE NATURE OF THE STUDIES, AND BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY UNDERLYING MANY OF THE

ASSUMPTIONS USED, BEGIN UNDERLINE NO FINAL CONCLUSIONS
HAVE BEEN REACHED. END UNDERLINE
HOWEVER, WITHIN THE LIMITED SCENARIOS EXPLORED TO DATE,
THESE IN- PROCESS STUDIES ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE LONG-
STANDING US POSITION THAT WE DO RETAIN, TOGETHER WITH OUR
ALLIES, A CREDIBLE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY IN
NATO. END QTE. END STATEMENT.

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